ने कहा है कि किसी राज्य को पूरी छूट नहीं देते हैं, पूरा खर्च केन्द्र सरकार नहीं उठाती है, यहां इन्हीं के जवाब में है कि संघ शासित प्रदेशों के मामले में सम्पूर्ण लागत केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा वहन की जाती है। यहां पर मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि कई ऐसे पिछड़े राज्य हैं....।

श्री सभापति: जवाब नहीं आ पायेगा।

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: जिनकी स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: भंडारी जी, क्वेश्चन का जवाब देने दीजिए।

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: मैं उसी विषय को दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि आप पूरी छूट जिस प्रकार संघ शासित प्रदेशों को दे रहें हैं, उसी प्रकार से पूरी छूट दूसरे राज्यों को भी दें।

श्री प्रियरंजन दास मुंशी: सभापति महोदय, यूनियन टेरेटरी द्वारा अपने आप साधन जुटाना बहुत मुश्किल है, यह सबको मालूम है। यूनियन टेरेटरी में पांडिचेरी जहां पर मछुआरों को....

श्री सभापति: आप जल्दी से उत्तर दीजिए।

श्री प्रियरंजन दास मुंशी: यूनियन टेरेटरी में शत प्रतिशत पैसा देना है, यह नियम में ही निश्चित हो गया था, इसलिए हम दे रहीं हैं। लेकिन जिन स्टेट्स में अपने साधन जुटाने की क्षमता है, उसको हम शत प्रतिशत करें, तो यह अभी मुश्किल होगा, क्योंकि उतने साधन नहीं हैं। फिर भी, मैं यह कह रहा हूं कि आपके सुझाव को मैं मंत्रालय में रखूंगा और इसके ऊपर चर्चा करूंगा।

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Fertilizer subsidy

†*502. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering an alternative calculation system for providing subsidy on fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the details of the system; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) from which date it has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Payment of subsidy to indigenous manufacturers of urea is regulated under the provisions of the group based New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units, introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2003 in place of the erstwhile unit specific Retention Price Scheme. NPS is being implemented in stages. Stage-I was of one year duration from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004. Stage-II is of two years duration, from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2006. Concession to manufacturers and importers of decontrolled phosphatic and potasic fertilizers is made under the provisions of the Scheme of Concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. The concession rates for phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are being worked out as per the recommendations of Tariff Commission. The Government had already approved continuation of the Scheme up to 31st March, 2006 as per the approved parameters.

A Working Group has been constituted on 10.12.2004 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the effectiveness of Stage-I and II of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units and to formulate a policy for urea units for Stage-III commencing from 1.4.2006. The Working Group would also examine issues pertaining to formulation of feedstock policy especially with regard to nature, pricing and availability, demand and supply of urea upto the end of 11th Five Year Plan, fixing milestones for conversion of existing naphtha and FO/LSHS based units to NG/LNG, mode of determination and methodology of payment of concession to urea units, de-control of movement and distribution of urea, balanced fertilization through urea pricing etc.

A policy has been announced for setting up new urea projects and expansion of existing urea projects for augmenting the domestic production capacity of urea to meet the growing demand for enhancing the agricultural production in the country. The new and expansion urea units will be based on natural gas/LNG as feedstock which is the most cost effective and the least polluting feedstock in fertilizer sector today. The new policy will enable the entrepreneurs to decide about their investment plans in the fertilizer sector.

Policy has also been announced for de-bottlenecking/revamp/ modernization of existing urea units, which will be allowed only if the additional production comes from using natural gas/LNG as feedstock.

Government has also formulated a policy for conversion of existing naphtha/FO/LSHS based urea units to natural gas/LNG as feedstock. The plants based on naphtha/FO/LSHS are less energy efficient and have a higher production cost. Therefore, the policy encourages an early conversion to natural gas/LNG so that they acquire a competitive edge in the deregulated and liberalised economic scenario. With a view to encouraging investments for switchover to NG/LNG as feedstock, the investor is assured that savings on account of energy efficiency after conversion would be retained by the plants for a maximum period of 5 years in respect of naphtha based plants and 10 years in respect of FO/ LSHS based plants.

Sex determination clinics

*503. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are thousands of Ultrasound Clinics in the country for conducting prenatal sex determination test; and

(b) whether Government are monitoring those Ultrasound Clinics which are violating the guidelines issued by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) There are 26199 Units registered in the country under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994. State/UT-wise details is given in the Statement (*See* below)

(b) Yes, Sir. The Implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well as Sub-district levels. Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of